

# Emergency Family Reconnection

This playbook outlines steps family members should follow to locate and reconnect with each other in case they are separated during an emergency. It provides a strategic approach to ensure all family members can communicate and find each other amidst confusion and potential communication breakdowns.

## Step 1: **Preparation**

Create a family emergency plan that includes specific reunification strategies. Ensure every family member knows the plan and practices it regularly. Maintain a list of contact information for all family members and other important contacts like emergency services, doctors, and schools.

## Step 2: **Communication**

During an emergency, attempt to communicate with family members using predefined methods such as text messages, phone calls, or email. Utilize social media and emergency services if direct communication fails.

## Step 3: **Rally Points**

Head to pre-determined rally points if communication is not possible. Each family member should be aware of primary and secondary rally points in case the first option is not accessible.

## Step 4: **Notification**

If separated, notify authorities and emergency services of missing family members. Provide detailed descriptions and last known locations to assist in the search.

## Step 5: **Check-in**

Use emergency check-in services such as the Safe and Well website by the American Red Cross to list oneself as safe or to search for missing family members.

## Step 6: **Local Assistance**

Seek the assistance of local emergency shelters, community centers, or religious institutions. They often have systems in place to help reunite separated family members.

## Step 7: **Regular Updates**

Provide regular updates to family members, emergency services, and local assistance facilities. If you have relocated or found a missing family member, keep others informed of your status.

# **General Notes**

## **Emergency Kit**

Keep an emergency kit ready with essential items like water, food, medication, a first-aid kit, torches, batteries, and copies of personal identification. It should be easily accessible in case of an abrupt separation.

## Identification

Ensure all family members carry identification and relevant medical information with them at all times during an emergency, which can aid in reunification efforts.

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